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STATINTL

ISOLATION OF REDS
IS OVER, HALL SAYSU.S. Party Opens Its First
Convention Since 1959

By PETER KHISS

STATINTL

The Communist party, U.S.A., opened its first national convention since 1959 last night, and its chief spokesman, Gus Hall, declared the party had "fought its way out of political isolation."

Three hundred delegates, representing 40 states by the party's claim, are scheduled to take part in the five-day gathering in the century-old Webster Hall, at 119 East 11th Street.

The grand ballroom, often the scene of Greenwich Village and society revels as well as political rallies of many complexions, this time was placarded with such exhortations as "Take the Right Turn, Go Left! Join the Communist Party."

The party's rent bill was reported as \$4,200.

Non-Communist observers had been invited and, for the first time, the opening session saw news representatives admitted. The sessions go back behind traditional closed doors today.

Concession Is Made

The first night's piece de resistance, a 68-page report by Mr. Hall, included these points:

A concession that the party had suffered from "bureaucratic hangovers." Mr. Hall said "the years of not being able to function openly have left behind some habits of cutting democratic corners."

A charge that "United States imperialist aggression" in Vietnam was "the most vicious, savage, uncivilized assault on a small nation" in history. Mr. Hall, citing the cremating victims in Nazi Germany, said "now the United States is operating hundreds of flying crematoria."

An attack on the international affairs department of the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations, headed by Ray Lovestone, as "an arm of the C.I.A. Central Intelligence Agency" involved in trying to get governments overthrown. Mr. Lovestone had been expelled from the Communist party in 1929 when he was its national secretary.

A call for political power for Negroes in "localities where they are the dominant people in the population." This stand, akin to "black power" demands in some Negro quarters now,

had previously been taken by the 1959 Communist convention, Mr. Hall said.

A promise of Communist return to the electoral arena, an appeal for "left unity," and a proposal for a movement for an independent candidate for President of the United States in 1968.

James E. Jackson, a former editor of The Worker, the Communist newspaper, reported that more than a score of foreign Communist parties had sent greetings to the convention.

Message From Moscow

These included a message from the central committee of the Soviet Communist party, which hailed "the true internationalism and real patriotic determination" of the United States Communists in opposing the Vietnam war and in seeking an end to alleged United States intervention in Cuba, the Dominican Republic and other Latin American, African and Asian countries.

"The Communists of all countries," the Soviet message said, "attach great importance to the role of the Communist party, U. S. A., in its principled struggle for the defense of the scientific theory of Marxism-Leninism for its consistent line of strengthening the unity of the

international Communist movement."

This, in effect, recognized the American Communists' alignment with Soviet views in the international Communist split as against the more militant Chinese Communists. Arnold Johnson, a spokesman for the Johnson, a spokesman for the sage had arrived.

Italian Turned Back

Mr. Jackson said that Renato Sanori, an Italian Communist deputy, had reached Chicago's O'Hare Airport Monday from Montreal in an effort to attend the convention. He said Mr. Sanori reported he had been sent back across the Canadian border after being given a visa for entry here starting July 1—after the convention ends.

The Communist party has climbed back to 12,000 members, up 2,000 in the last six or seven months, according to Mr. Hall. Federal officials have estimated its membership at 10,000, well above such other leftist groups as the Socialist Workers party, a Trotsky group; the Progressive Labor party, whose line tends to parallel the Chinese Communists'; and the splinter Communist party, U.S.A., Marxist-Leninist.

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